

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending the above-referenced application. Claims 23-28 were withdrawn from consideration and are herein canceled without prejudice or surrender of subject matter. Applicants reserve their right to present claims 23-28 in a continuing application. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are rejected. Claims 3, 5, and 7-22 are objected to.

In particular and in accordance with the Item numbering of the Detailed Action, the Office Action has:

In Item 1, indicated informalities in claims 13 and 18. Applicants have corrected the informality and thank the Examiner for pointing them out;

In Item 2, rejected claim 2 under 112p2 as being indefinite due to the recitation of coefficient “c;”

In Item 3, rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (US 2003/0210251) in view of Kuchkuda (US 5,872,902). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on arguments previously made;

In Item 4, rejected claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Kuchkuda and further in view of Wada (US 6,847,375) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on arguments previously made;

In Item 5, indicated that claims 3, 5 and 7-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

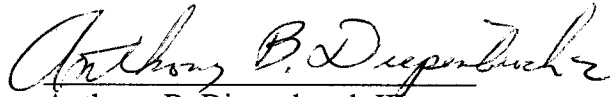
Regarding Item 5, Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 22 to include the independent claim 1 from which these claims dependent. Therefore, these claims are in allowable form. The other claims 8, 10-15, 17, and 18 are dependent upon these rewritten claims and so are also allowable. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 and 23-28 without prejudice or surrender of subject matter so as to put this application in form for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed each and every ground of objection and rejection, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the above-mentioned application and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 22, 2006


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